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Financing of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic

Budget performance of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Commitment authority	$8,227,100
Expenditure	$6,530,100

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I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the budget performance of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (UNSMIS) for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 (A/68/597 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with responses received in writing on 19 March 2014.

2. The Security Council, by its resolution 2043 (2012), established the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (UNSMIS) for an initial period of 90 days. Subsequently, by its resolution 2059 (2012), the Council renewed the mandate of UNSMIS for a final period of 30 days, until 19 August 2012. From that date, UNSMIS actively commenced its liquidation activities. The Advisory Committee recalls that at the request of the Controller, it agreed to extend the validity of the commitment authority for an additional three-month period, from 20 August to 19 November 2012, to allow the Mission to implement its liquidation activities, and to revise the commitment authority for the 2012/13 period from the original amount of $5,936,900 to $8,227,100, representing an increase of $2,290,200 (ibid., summary).

II. Budget performance for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

3. Information with respect to the mandate performance of the Mission is provided in paragraphs 6 to 13 of the performance report. A summary of the total expenditure amounting to $6,530,100 incurred during the 2012/13 financial period is provided in section III of the report.

4. The information on the unliquidated obligations for the financial periods 2011/12 and 2012/13, provided to the Advisory Committee upon enquiry, is contained in the annex to the present report. The Committee was further informed that the total expenditure of $344,400 under ground transportation was attributable mainly to liability insurance ($22,500), the acquisition of spare parts and vehicle workshop equipment ($135,000), repairs and maintenance ($140,100) and fuel ($46,800).

5. In paragraph 17 of the report, the Secretary-General provides that during the liquidation period, the Mission disposed of approximately 700 non-expendable assets, about 40 per cent of which were transferred to the Office of the Joint Special Representative and the remainder to either neighbouring peacekeeping missions or the United Nations reserve. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that in the interest of budgetary transparency and accuracy, more detailed information on non-expendable assets transferred to other offices, peacekeeping missions or the reserve of the United Nations, including the quantities and values, should be reflected in the budget performance reports of the peacekeeping missions. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to reflect such details clearly in the future reports on the budget performance of the peacekeeping missions**. The Committee intends to comment further on the transfer of non-expendable assets in its report on the

overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/68/782).

6. According to the supplementary information provided to the Advisory Committee, UNSMIS borrowed $10 million from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that that loan was not related to the commitment authority of $8.2 million for the 2012/13 period and was used to cover the expenditure of $8.6 million incurred by UNSMIS from the strategic deployment stocks and the balance of $1.4 million was for other miscellaneous charges that could arise. **The Committee recalls the establishment of the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/217 and recommends that the Fund be used in strict compliance with the terms of that resolution.**

III. Recommendation

7. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNSMIS is indicated in paragraph 32 of document A/68/597. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly approve the actions proposed by the Secretary-General.**

Annex

Unliquidated obligations of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic for the financial period 2011/12 as at 30 June 2012 and for the financial period 2012/13 as at 30 June 2013

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Unliquidated obligations	
	2011/12	*2012/13*
I. Military and police personnel		
Military observers		
Mission subsistence allowance	19.0	–
Travel on emplacement, rotation and repatriation	335.2	262.5
Subtotal	**354.3**	**262.5**
Military contingents	–	–
United Nations police	–	–
Formed police units	–	–
Total, I	**354.3**	**262.5**
II. Civilian personnel		
International staff		
Common staff costs	–	8.2
National staff		
Common staff costs	–	128.2
United Nations Volunteers	–	–
General temporary assistance (international staff)		
Common staff costs	216.7	19.1
Subtotal	**216.7**	**19.1**
Total, II	**216.7**	**155.5**
III. Operational costs		
Government-provided personnel	–	–
Civilian electoral observers	–	–
Consultants	–	–
Official travel		
Non-training	1 009.4	490.6

	Unliquidated obligations	
	2011/12	*2012/13*
Facilities and infrastructure		
Acquisition of generators	62.6	–
Acquisition of accommodation equipment	5.6	–
Acquisition of office furniture	6.6	–
Acquisition of office equipment	3.6	–
Acquisition of security and safety equipment	3.4	31.3
Rental of premises	53.8	0.4
Alteration and renovation services	15.1	–
Stationery and office supplies	51.9	–
Subtotal	**202.5**	**31.7**
Ground transportation		
Acquisition of vehicles	6 302.4	–
Acquisition of vehicle workshop equipment	12.2	–
Repairs and maintenance	16.0	65.4
Liability insurance	–	14.0
Spare parts	165.7	25.9
Petrol, oil and lubricants	13.9	6.2
Subtotal	**6 510.2**	**111.6**
Air transportation	–	–
Naval transportation	–	–
Communications		
Acquisition of communications equipment	1 195.8	–
Commercial communications	208.1	10.9
Communications support services	5.0	–
Subtotal	**1 408.9**	**10.9**
Information technology		
Acquisition of equipment	866.6	–
Spare parts and supplies	32.2	–
Subtotal	**898.7**	**–**
Medical		
Acquisition of equipment	23.9	–
Medical services	5.0	–
Subtotal	**28.9**	**–**

	Unliquidated obligations	
	2011/12	*2012/13*
Special equipment	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment		
Mine detection and mine clearing services	328.8	357.0
Uniforms, flags and decals	49.3	–
Personal protection gear	469.2	–
Training fees, supplies and services	3.5	–
Other freight and related costs	60.0	5.4
Subtotal	**910.8**	**362.4**
Quick-impact projects	–	–
Total, III	**10 969.5**	**1 007.1**
Gross requirements	**11 540.5**	**1 425.2**